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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

War of nerves at UN - Turkiye  
Grand day for 'United States of Cyprus' - Sabah  
Greek Cypriots also oppose Annan timetable - Hurriyet  
Simitis vows to work for a solution - Turkiye  
John Kerry generates panic in Bush team - Hurriyet  
Cold war between Turkey, Russia over Chechen fighters -  
Milliyet  
Amnesty International says Turkey on right path - Milliyet  
Fitch upgrades Turkey's rating - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Historic day for Cyprus - Cumhuriyet  
Annan urges Cypriot peoples to press leaders - Zaman  
Washington ratchets up pressure on Ankara before Cyprus  
talks - Cumhuriyet  
Reluctant Cyprus summit in New York - Radikal  
Greek Cypriots reluctant, Simitis criticizes Annan timetable  
- Radikal  
Kerry tough on Bush - Yeni Safak  
EU officials hopeful, find Turkey 'closer to EU' - Radikal  
Security fence taken to Israeli high court - Yeni Safak  
Prince Charles pays surprise visit to Tehran - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: If Denktas or Papadopoulos decline to accept the conditions outlined in the UN-sponsored peace plan for Cyprus, UN Secretary General Annan will end his peace efforts, papers report. Denktas, accompanied by hard-line advisor Muntaz Soysal, who is well-known for his uncompromising attitude, will refuse the Annan conditions, some papers believe. Foreign Minister Gul said yesterday that Turkey was keen to see a solution, but would not accept everything in the plan unconditionally. Gul said that Turkey has three points on which it will insist during the settlement talks - a bi-zonal structure, guarantor status, and an acceptable border on the island. Any agreement reached is likely to be rejected at referendum unless those three concerns are met, he noted. Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders say they came to New York mainly to explain to Annan their objections to the conditions for discussing the peace plan, "Hurriyet" reports. Papers note that Annan issued a call to the peoples of the Turkish and Greek Cypriot entities to exert pressure on their leaders for a settlement. 'A unified Cyprus entering the EU will help reduce tensions in the Aegean, and will facilitate Turkey's entry into Europe,' Annan said. Prime Minister Erdogan, on an official visit to South Korea, reiterated from Seoul on Monday Turkey's eagerness to see a fair and lasting solution before May 2004. "Cumhuriyet" says that Washington might support Turkey's arguments if the Cypriot sides agree on the procedure and begin discussing the UN plan.

Iraqi groups' representatives in Turkey: Representatives of Iraqi Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish arrived in Ankara in advance of a meeting of Iraq's neighbors that will take place in Kuwait on February 14-15. Qassem Ghali, deputy head of the Free Iraq Council, and Barham Salih of the PUK met with MFA officials on Monday. A delegation of the Ayan Assembly, headed by Shiite leader Iyad Jamal al Din, will be in Ankara

on Tuesday. Egyptian President Mubarak will also visit Ankara in an effort to find a common policy with Turkey before the meeting in Kuwait.

Turkey offers Russia anti-terror alliance: Russia has asked Turkey to shut down some NGOs allegedly sending Islamic fighters to Chechnya following a suicide bomb attack on a Moscow underground passenger train that killed nearly 40 Russians last week. In its first official response to Moscow's allegations, Ankara has offered Russia increased and more effective cooperation against terror. Russian police recently announced that three Turkish citizens had been killed in clashes with Russian troops in Chechnya. The issue will be taken up during Foreign Minister Gul's visit to Moscow February 23, reports note.

AI finds Turkish reforms encouraging: Amnesty International (AI) Secretary General Irene Khan and her delegation visited Istanbul Monday, where they praised the legal reforms enacted by Turkey in pursuit of the Copenhagen Criteria. The delegation will meet with the prime minister, the foreign minister, the interior minister, and leading judiciary figures during its visit.. Human rights violation cases have showed a significant decline in Turkey, Khan said, but she warned against continuing problems such as torture and the treatment of inmates in Turkey's F-type prisons. Khan asserted that while Turkey is "on the right road" with respect to human rights, the reform process "still has a long way to go." She noted AI's concern about continuing state pressure against groups and individuals who defend human rights in Turkey.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Cyprus

"The First Challenge is the Bargain with Kofi Annan" Sami Kohen noted in the mass appeal Milliyet (2/10): "Oddly enough, the two leaders of Cyprus are on the same line, but in a negative sense. Both Papadopoulos and Denktas are seeking changes in the Annan Plan, and they will push for this during the initial talks with the UNSYG. Kofi Annan is unlikely to accept any changes to his preconditions. Thus there is still a possibility that Annan pulls out of the talks if the two Cypriot leaders insist on changes. . However, this will also be a challenging process for Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas and Greek Cypriot leader Papadopoulos. Denktas is willing to withdraw from the talks if he feels it becomes necessary, but he cannot do that easily because of pressure from Ankara. Papadopoulos, on the other hand, is very reluctant to negotiate and is ready to say 'no' to Annan. Papadopolous would prefer not to be the first one who says 'no.' . The parties to the Cyprus issue are meeting very reluctantly in New York, and it is almost impossible to be optimistic about the upcoming negotiation process."

#### "Next: The Aegean Disputes"

Sedat Ergin warned in the mass appeal Hurriyet (2/10): "The main focus in Turkish and Greek public opinion has shifted to the Cyprus talks in New York, but there is also significant progress in exploratory talks on the Aegean disputes between the two countries. . The Aegean talks between Turkey and Greece have continued since March 2002, and have now reached the 23rd round. If Turkey and Greece declare their intentions to start a negotiation process on the Aegean issues as a result of exploratory talks, that will in itself represent significant progress in bilateral relations. In fact, the Aegean negotiations will be critical for the start of Turkey's EU accession talks. . We should remember that the EU decision at the Helsinki summit in 1999, when Turkey was asked to undertake steps for settlement of the Cyprus issue, also included provisions for the settlement of the Aegean disputes with Greece by the end of 2004. There is a very clear message here indicating that the Aegean issue will be on the agenda right after progress has been made on the Cyprus issue."

EDELMAN